

SOUTHWESTER

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Community Council, Inc.

SERVING NEAR SOUTHWEST/SOUTHEAST



February 1994

Wilkins to Prez: Need Jobs, Not Sermons

In late January, Southwest resident Roger Wilkins was honored by the Milton Eisenhower Foundation for his work in carrying out the spirit of the Kerner Commission Report. The Report was a controversial and widely discussed document released in 1968 in the aftermath of major urban riots. Its major theme, according to Wilkins, was that, "America was a racist society, divided into two parts--black and white...White America had to become involved in changing the conditions in the inner city if the nation was to escape being permanently divided."

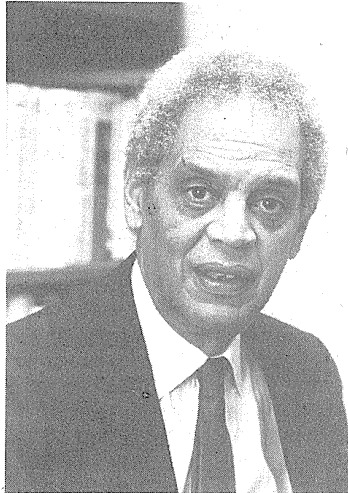
Wilkins is entitled to some special pleasure in that particular honor. President Johnson had tried to bury the Report, and on the front page of the New York Times, Wilkins had demanded its release. But, he feels little satisfaction about the plight of black Americans 25 years after it was finally published.

He said, "There's been progress for the black middle class, but the isolation of the black poor is worse. In the '60s, we thought the economy would continue to expand and there would always be entry-level jobs for low-skill people, so they could climb out of the ghetto. Those jobs have just disappeared. Black unemployment remains very high, and the desperation in the inner city has gotten worse."

The role of the economy and of racism are central to Wilkins' analysis of urban problems. He is pleased with the "heightened resolve of black people to work hard to combat violence," expressed at the recent conference on urban problems sponsored by the National Rainbow Coalition. But, he quickly adds, "It is essential that all of us understand that we can't combat violence without providing opportunities for people who now have no hope and no economic opportunities." President Clinton should focus on solutions to joblessness rather than "merely making sermons to black people about their behavior."

Wilkins can speak with considerable authority about the intersection between government and race relations. During the 1960s, while he was only in his 30s, he held top positions in federal agencies administering new civil rights legislation and developing strategies to address the demands for justice coming from the black community. He later turned down an appointment as General Counsel at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare from President Nixon, charging, "Nixon has displayed no understanding of black people and no interest in learning about them."

From Washington, Wilkins went to the Ford Foundation where he headed an effort to bring its resources to inner city problems. A Pulitzer



Roger Wilkins, Professor of History and American Culture

Prize winner for editorial writing at the Washington Post, he currently teaches at George Mason University. His autobiography, *A Man's Life*, is available at the Southwest Branch Library.

Southwest is Wilkins' home base in Washington, DC. He and his first wife Eve moved into Capitol Park in 1963 when it was just being completed. Amidon was being developed as a magnet school, staffed with many of the school systems' teaching stars. The housing complex was a mecca for energetic, young people who came to Washington with high hopes about what the government and they could accomplish. The Wilkins had backyard cookouts with Jane Alexander, then a young actress and now Director of the National Endowment of the Arts, and her husband who developed *The Living Stage*.

Wilkins moved to Carrollsburg Square and now lives at Tiber Island with his wife, law professor Patricia King. He lists some of the area attractions, "its diversity, the proximity to the water, the Arena," and adds, "after watching that subway station being covered up all those years, I wasn't going to move away when the Green Line finally came." ---Kate Mulligan



Armand Villis told the ANC meeting of the opposition of the People's Counsel to parts of a PEPCO request for higher electric rates.

Loretta LaVerne Reeves New ANC Chair

"Our job on the Commission is to listen; to learn what the community wants and stay on top of municipal developments," said Luvorn Reeves, just elected to a two-year term as chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D.

She told the *Southwester* that, by good listening the ANC can speak for this neighborhood in city affairs and, likewise, tie this community to citywide developments.

For five years Ms Reeves was on the board of the Southwest Community House, and served as its president. She has served seven years on the ANC. She's been on the board of the SW Neighborhood Assembly for seven years.

Among her many important contributions to the Southwest was her service on the Federal City Technical Task Force which worked on the development plan for Buzzard's Point.

See page 5 for other ANC elected officials.



Loretta Laverne Reeves

PEPCO Rate Increase Opposed By ANC

Opposition to parts of the \$130 million increase in charges to customers on their electric bills being proposed by the Potomac Electric Power Co. was explained by Armand Villis of the Office of Peoples Counsel at the recent ANC-2D meeting.

Peppo representatives had explained their proposal to the ANC-2D at an earlier meeting.

The advisory neighborhood commissioners then voted to agree with the Peoples Counsel and oppose the higher rates for electricity.

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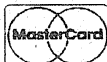
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Community Calendar - Feb.

February 14, Monday, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D, 400 I Street, SW, 7:30 p.m.

February 15, Tuesday, SW Branch, D.C. Chapter, League of Women Voters (Ms. Layton), 1311 Delaware Avenue, SW, 9:45 a.m.

February 16, Wednesday, Southwest Waterfront AARP Chapter 4751 meeting, St. Matthew's Church, 12Noon.

February 22, Tuesday, Mayor Kelly Ward II Town Hall Meeting, Francis Junior High School, 24th and N, Streets, NW, 7:00 p.m.

February 28, Monday, SWNA General Meeting, SW Branch Library, 6:30 p.m.

Please submit community events for the next calendar to C.W. Hargrave, 600 Third Street, SW, 202-554-8284.

"Red Dress Ball" For Scholarships For Women Law Students

The annual conference of the National Association of Black Women Attorneys Feb. 24-26 will include a Red Dress Ball to raise funds for scholarships for black female law students who participate in a legal-writing competition.

Southwest residents taking part in the conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel include Ms. Suzanne Richards, Esq., a member of the Board of Governors of NABWA. Ofield Dukes of Southwest is an honorary member.

The conference will wind up with a rap session by law students Saturday morning, an awards luncheon Saturday noon with special guest Attorney General Janet Reno, and the Red Dress Ball Saturday evening from 9 pm to 2 am. The \$55 tickets (\$35 for students) to the ball will be sold at the door or can be ordered by Feb. 12 from:

NABWA Scholarship Fund Committee
3711 Macomb St NW
Washington D C 20016

For information phone Mabel D. Haden, Esq., President, 202-966-9693.

Park is Dedicated

The Friends of Marion Park, which is located on E Street, SE, between 4th and 6th Streets on Capitol Hill, are soliciting private funds for a children's playground within the park. The playground will be dedicated to the memory of Officer Jason White, who was shot to death on December 30 in the line of duty. Officer White was a member of Precinct 1D, which is responsible for Southwest and Capitol Hill.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to FOMP/CHRS, 501 6th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. For more information, call Libby Dingelden at 202-554-5862.

THE SOUTHWESTER

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Leave articles for *Southwester* in drop box at DC Public Library, Wesley Place at K St. SW by 1st Wednesday, each month.
NOTE THE NEW DATE!

Safeway & Giant Tapes

Remember to save your receipt tapes. As of today, members of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly have donated more than \$4000 in receipts. These have been left in a box in the S.W. Branch Library.

Just come to the circulation desk and the box is marked "Receipts". All receipts gathered by Friday, February 18 will be added to this total. This figure will be divided among the three schools in SW. If you should miss the SWNA Deadline, take your tapes to Bowen, Amidon or Jefferson by Sunday, Feb. 27th.

THEY

I was born in this country
Among the rest of the brave and the fry
I've always done the right thing
Why don't they like me?

They find it amusing sometime
Because my name is hard to say
I got my name from my ancestors
I am proud that it sounds that way.

I have my own religious rules
That I follow thru and thru
They would have me change my views
Don't they know God made me too?

When problems come upon me
I get on my knees to pray too
When emotions overwhelm me
I cry wet tears like they do

What can I do about them?
Why can't we love one another?
We are just a little different
We are still sister and brother

Just how does prejudice survive
When somewhere along the way
We all become the different ones
We all become the ones called "They."

- Margaret H. Oliver, 1992

Initiative 35 Against Tax Breaks For Office Buildings Supported By ANC

The ANC commissioners for SW voted to support placing on the ballot the Initiative 35 plan to give citizen taxpayers more information on tax assessments and the right to oppose tax breaks for office buildings and other commercial properties.

The Taxpayer Right to Know Committee wants to open up the procedures of D.C.'s 18 member "Board of Real Property Assessment and Appeals" which meets every year from March to May to decide 5,000 tax appeals. Two out of three major office buildings asking for tax reductions have been given them by the board in recent years.

If enough signatures are obtained, the question could be voted on at the September or November 1994 elections.

Southwest Turns Out For Father Haddad

On February 9 there a farewell reception for Fr. Haddad. This followed the 12:15 mass which he led. Over 400 people attended the reception and about that many attended the mass. A newcomer to Southwest might well wonder "why?".

The name "Fr. Haddad" and "Southwest" were/are synonymous. After being at St. Dominics for a stint this last time of 12 1/2 years (which was preceded by an "intermission" of 9 years) and a 10 year tour before that, he will be missed. He has always been so very active in the community. Anyone who read last month's *Southwester*, knows of this great activism.

His pet project was the Southwest Community House. The house had been without a director for several months. Finally, a person was hired for the position. Al Freeman said that he looked forward to working with Fr. Haddad. It looks like he will have to wait for that dream.

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly presented Fr. Haddad with plaque. It was in appreciation for his "tireless efforts & dedication to the community". He is a former president of SWNA.

Rev. Talbott of St. Augustine's summed up the feelings of so many when he said "I'll really miss him."

Secret Radiation Test Shameful, Says DAV

The Disabled American Veterans headquarters on the Maine Ave S W waterfront has issued a statement condemning past radiation experiments on service personnel. The VA admits that 48 VA hospitals had conducted radiation experiments on patients between 1947 and 1979.

The DAV office has been receiving calls since the disclosure of the government's role in tests on human beings. Their service department has not set up any special plan for helping with claims on radiation experiments as yet.

"It galls us to think that veterans... were callously used as human guinea pigs while receiving treatment for their service-connected disabilities in VA hospitals," the DAV statement said.

Hearings on this question by the House Veterans Affairs Committee began February 8 in 334 Cannon House Office Bldg.

Family Film Festival Fridays

"Nothing to do" is a complaint of neighborhood youth that has caused Westminster Presbyterian Church to begin its Family Film Festival, FFF, at 4th and I Streets. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.

The free movies and a few refreshments have attracted a dozen or so moviegoers, usually in the 8 to 12-year age range, but sometimes as young as 1 year and as old as 14.

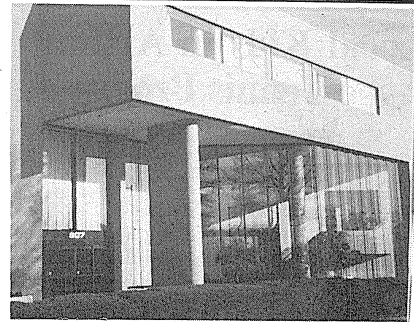
The turnout has been so good that more volunteers are needed to take care of arrangements, Blossom Athey said to the *Southwester*. The church staff person taking care of the program is Linda DeLaine, who is a Howard University graduate. She began staffing the project in November and has added much to the evenings.

A big screen is put up in the main sanctuary of the church. After the movies, the audience talks over what they've seen. Some of the young people have some very original views on what went on in the cinema.

The program was conceived a year ago when the Mayor's Youth Initiative inspired people to talk about what churches could do. Ms. Athey and others inquired what other Southwest churches were doing. A school principal reported that children have a need for something special at the end of the school week. Ms. Athey and the congregation responded with the FFF at Westminster.

Parents have been coming with the younger children. After the movie and after the discussion the audience of children and parents get together for a few minutes of sharing some thoughts about being in a sanctuary at the end of the week.

All neighborhood children, parents and helpers are invited to these special Friday evenings.



Disabled American Veterans (DAV) national headquarters on the Maine Ave. Southwest

VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

Washington, D.C. January 25, 1994 - The National Capital Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking certified health and safety course instructors to teach CPR and other health education classes on a volunteer basis. Volunteers make the difference at the National Capital Chapter by assisting in the effort to train more than 50,000 people annually in life-saving skills throughout Washington, D.C., Falls Church, and Fairfax, VA. Please contact the Red Cross at 202-728-6531.

One Person Can Make A Difference

It is possible for residents of Southwest to have an impact on the traffic conditions and controls in our neighborhoods. By correspondence and telephone contact with Jack Evans, Ward 2 Council Member, and the DC Transportation Systems Administration, traffic control changes have been made that improve safety on our streets. For example:

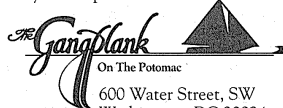
The "No U Turn" signs at the intersection of M and Fourth Street prohibit cars from turning into the walkways reserved for pedestrians. The "Walk/Don't Walk" signals at this intersection were out of alignment for many months last year; they directed pedestrians to cross M Street into oncoming traffic. These have been properly aligned. Both corrections at this intersection resulted from citizen complaints to the DC Transportation Administration.

Another correction to be made is pending: There is a curb cut for wheel chair access on the southwest corner of the M and Fourth Street intersection. Pedestrian crossing on that side of Fourth Street is prohibited. The curb cut directs handicapped persons to cross M Street at an illegal point. In a letter dated December 17, 1992, the DC government agreed to remove that curb cut. To date it is still there.

Several years ago, some concerned citizens were instrumental in having a traffic light place at the entrance to the S.W. Freeway and 7th Street. Another incident involves a sign which was placed on Eye St. near 6th Street. The sign says "Deaf Child" this was true for a good many years but the child moved away a while ago while the sign still remains.

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Local Kids in Arthur Ashe Tennis Program



Daniel Kemp and Billy Bethune, two teen-age Riverparkers, attend the Arthur Ashe Children's Program. It is a year-round academic and athletic program developed for school-aged youth. This past December, both were chosen by the American Tennis Association to participate in their week long junior development program. This is a national training workshop held in the District.

The workshop was attended by 60 participants from the Washington area and across the country. Among the speakers was Willis Thomas Jr., a former ATA national champion and amateur doubles partner of the late tennis great Arthur Ashe.

Albert Tucker, the director of the junior development for the ATA said that the junior development system will be analogous to the systems that currently support most touring tennis professionals.

All elementary, junior and high school tennis who are interested in learning more about this program are encouraged to call the Washington Tennis Foundation, 291-9888.

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Shanika Queen, Donte' Porter Honored by MPD Boys and Girls Clubs

Two Southwest youths were among 19 citywide honored as "1993 Outstanding Youth" at a reception at the U S Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Ave.N.W.



Donte' Porter, with Police Chief Thomas and Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club official Sal Gordon.



Shanika Queen, center, a sophomore at Wilson High School receives her honor from the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club. Her mother, Michelle Davis, and Police Chief Thomas are with her.

Mr. Cantor of Cap Liquors

On a well-heeled stretch of South Capitol Street, at the northern foot of the Frederick Douglass Bridge, sits a non-descript building that has become, over the years, as much a part of its surroundings as they have become a part if it. There is an establishment located here that has clearly manifested this symbiotic relationship with the community.

CAP Liquors, very much a family business, occupies the Southwest corner of South Capitol and N Streets, S.W. It is a mirror on the diverse community it serves and a bridge to the memory of what Southwest was, and in fact, to old Washington itself.

Owner/Proprietor Harold Canter waxed eloquently on the store and the people he serves. CAP Liquors has roots dating to the 1860's, starting as Matthew's Pharmacy. Mr. Canter's grandfather arrived from Lithuania, c. 1898, working as a cigar maker. The business evolved as a grocery store, serving the Shaw community in N.W. At that time, two packs of cigarettes were .25, 2 pounds of pork were .50, 2 loaves of bread were .16, 2 cans of beer could be had for .10, and a can of peaches was .19. Then you could probably get change back from your \$1.00! During the 1930's, when Prohibition was the law of the land, Matthew's like the other 330 pharmacies in existence at that time, were licensed to dispense liquor. The Canters bought the business c. 1947. Following the riots of

1968, the present location came into being, within a building that, itself, dates to c. 1867.

As the sole proprietor, with eight employees, Harold Canter has carried CAP Liquors through to its current roles, providing Western Union and check cashing services, Lottery, and liquor sales. Many generations of the same families have passed through, where the emblem, the U.S. Capitol without the dome implores "Put a Cap on the Capitol". CAP Liquors was thusly named accordingly. Harold has become well known in the community, paying particular attention to the needs of the elderly. He is held in high esteem by employee Gerald Davis, who explains that "he takes time out for everyone." And Harold ("CAP") has known Gerald from birth. Harold has also been involved with the Syphax Boy's Club, the D.C. Lottery Commission, the Mayor's Task Force on Drugs, and the Southwest Youth Task Force. As president of the Liquor Dealers Association in 1988, Mr. Canter had a hand in the writing of the liquor laws for the District of Columbia. Many changes in the community have occurred over the years, as well as marketing strategies. He found African Americans, in particular, always to be trendsetters, leading to new types of products.

While there are a few problems in the neighborhood, what with crime and such, it is, by and large, a safe haven because of community ties, with friendships made quickly and everlasting. Everybody does know your name there!



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ANC NEWS

At its January 10, 1994 meeting ANC 2-D:

1. Elected the following officers for 1994: L. LaVerne Reeves, Chairperson; C.W. Hargrave, Vice-Chairperson; Alphonso Coles, Secretary; and, Le Eckles, Treasurer.
2. Adopted a statement urging the Public Service Commission to deny most or all of PEPCO's rate increase proposal.
3. Agreed to support a zoning variance (#158-90) requested by Robert and Dyanne Branand for property they own at 412 South Capitol.
4. Voted to support placing Initiative 35 ("The Real Property Assessment and Tax Amendments Act") on the ballot for the voters' consideration.
5. Appointed Wallace Darius and Robert Zigler to one-year terms on the ANC's standing Committee on Education and Recreation.
6. Heard Joyce Stewart, of the EPA's security office, report on her efforts to establish a police mini-station in Waterside Mall.
7. Heard Sgt. Richardson and Lt. Sandra Peters, First District police, describe recent crime statistics and police actions.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the ANC will be 7:30 pm, Monday, February 14, 1994 at 400 I Street SW (in the basement of Westminster Church). The agenda, which is subject to last minute changes, now tentatively includes: Report on implementation of the SW Waterfront Master Plan with DHCD Director Merrick Malone, and discussion of consumer complaints with Safeway's District manager Bob Glover.

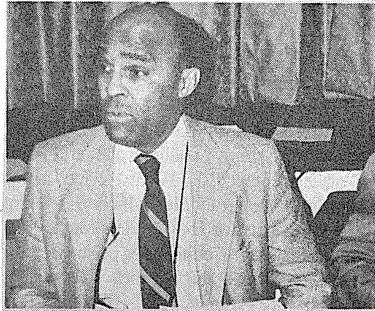
S.W. (Zip 20024) Has High Percent Of College Graduates

Of the 20 or so zipcode neighborhoods in Washington, D C, the near Southwest (Zip Code 20024) ranks in the upper third in percent of college graduates. 53.2% of the residents of Southwest are college graduates, according to "The Sourcebook of Zip Code Demographics" issued by CACI Marketing Systems, located in Arlington, Va.

Five other neighborhoods are in the 50s and one - in Georgetown - is 63.9%. Average for all neighborhoods in the city is 27%.

Southwest is tops in newness of housing, with only 26% built before 1960, compared with the citywide average of 77.8%. Other features on which Southwest ranks high are percent of white collar workers, median home value, and median rent.

For information on the publication phone John Stokes, 1-800-292-2224.



C W Hargrave, new vice-chair of ANC 2-D.



Alphonso Coles, elected Secretary of ANC 2-D for 1994.

EPA Needs Volunteers For Youth

Samuel Bryant of EPA is the contact to call if you can help with EPA volunteer efforts at Bowen, Amidon or Jefferson.



Le Eckles, reelected treasurer of ANC 2-D.

SW Scholarship Committee Gets Underway

The Scholarship Committee of the S.W.N.A. met on Saturday January 29. Scholarship applications for High School students and new applicants will be available to be picked up at the library on or after Friday, February 18.

Applications for last year applicants will be sent to the students at his/her college. The deadline for new applicants to submit applications and supporting paperwork is May 16.

In a few weeks, envelopes will be mailed to the people in S.W. asking for their support. A former scholarship recipient, Darryl Holt remarked that "SWNA is at it again this year, helping Southwest youngsters financially in their college endeavors." We hope that you will help us in this effort. For further information, call B. Murray at 488-8257.

WATERSIDE FITNESS & SWIM CLUB

Enjoy:

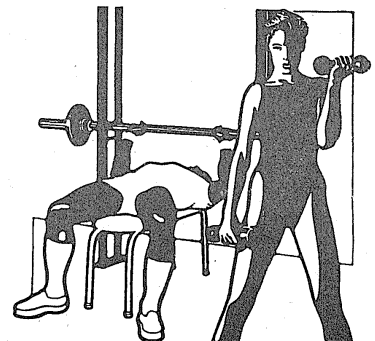
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MERCHANTS' CORNER

Rainbow Books and Records Has Jazz Discs, African-American Books

Two new (or renewed) trends in public taste are well served close to home in Southwest - at the Rainbow Books and Records in Waterside Mall, 401 M St SW

A renewed interest in jazz music is bringing an increase in inquiries for new and old jazz recordings.

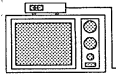
A whole wall of new and classic books by African-Americans is visible through the store's glass wall.



Jazz compact discs are popular at Rainbow Books and Records in Waterside Mall.

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S.W. AARP Christmas Party

by Alberta E. White

S.W. Waterfront AARP Chapter 4751 held its second Christmas Luncheon at Pier 7 Restaurant on December 15, 1993. Each member brought a toy for a toddler which was donated to EFEC [Efforts for Ex-Convicts] and given to an under-privileged child of a prisoner. Gifts were also given to the Seniors who reside at 1200 Delaware Avenue, S.W. They give them out as prizes for their bingo games. The Chapter collects gifts monthly. Entertainment was by Michelle Watson with songs, accompanied by her mother, Okeena Watson. Special guests were Mrs. Sarah Moore, past State Director, AARP, and Mr. Charles Hargrove, Chairman, ANC 2D. Door prizes were given out, some of them donated.

Guests at the AARP Chapter 4751 Christmas luncheon at Pier 7 Restaurant



Mary Ann Bailer, Barbara Hawkins, Marian Tignor



Mr. & Mrs. John Suggs and Colleen Williams

SWNA Meets Mon., Feb. 28

The February meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, SWNA, will be on the last Monday of the month, February 28th at 6:30 pm. at the library. The nominating committee will report on the names, addresses and offices. Nomination will also be accepted from the floor. Afterwards, there will be a general meeting.



Left to right: Mildred Twitty, Thomas Hawkins, and entertainers Michelle and Okeena Watson.



James Patton and Dorothy Gordon

Taps and Company

Taps & Company, located in the Stables Art Center at 410 - 8th Street, NW, will be producing a Fifth Anniversary Gala Concert and Reception on Saturday, February 26, 1994, at 7:00. The concert will be at the Black Box Theater on the first floor.

The theme of the concert will be a "Tap Down Memory Lane". Consisting of talented tap dancers of diverse ages and ethnic backgrounds, the Teen Company and Adult Ensemble (in which Jerry Blasenstien, S.W. resident, is a member) will perform highlights from past productions. Also featured is Founding Artistic Director of Taps & Company, Toni M. Lombre and renowned hooper, Ms. Dianne Walker, who will narrate as well as perform.

There will be master classes offered on Friday and Sunday, which can be purchased in packages with the concert. Tickets are now on sale. For more information, contact Taps & Company at 202-393-TAPS(8277).

"Project Spirit" In 1994

We have had an exciting year so far at "Project Spirit", the St. Matthew's After School Program. This year, we have had the highest attendance of students in our five year history. We are excited because we have been able to improve our students academically, emotionally, and spiritually, and we have also provided a sound cultural enhancement program.

New Volunteers: This year, the After School program has attracted a number of new people ready to help the students. One of our new helpers is Mr. Varius Knight. Mr. Knight is a fitness trainer who has developed a physical education program for the children. Every day, he teaches exercise routines to the students, then he talks about health issues.

This year, our parents and volunteers have formed an organization called the "Project Spirit" Parents Association. This organization is responsible for many of the extra-curricular activities for the children. Two past events that the Parents' Association have presented to the students are a Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas party.

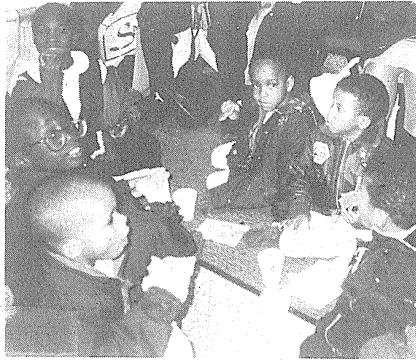
We are excited that a young sports figure has decided to support our program. Lightweight boxing champion Mark Johnson, who has several family members in "Project Spirit" has attended several programs during the year and is one of our most prominent mentors. He encourages the children to keep coming to our program as well as to stay in school.

In December, Rev. Archibald Bing, a native of Liberia, West Africa, spoke to our students about his country. He spoke to the children about the overall view of Liberia after a long period of war and suffering. Rev. Bing's country is without homes, schools, churches, etc. The students were so moved by his presentation that for Christmas, they collected pencils, paper, crayons, and other school supplies to help the children of Liberia to continue with their education. We hope to continue with this project throughout this school year and for many years to come.

Ms. Geraldine Shaheed from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, gave a workshop on self-esteem to the students. She has published a series of books about self-esteem that is currently being used in school systems across the United States.

On December 16, 1993, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly invited the students to a Christmas party at her office at One Judiciary Square. The children were treated to carol singing, refreshments, and a tree-lighting ceremony. The best part for the students was when they got a chance to meet the mayor in person. It was a wonderful night for everyone including the many parents and friends who volunteered to transport the children to the festivities.

Currently, our students are preparing for a speech contest in honor of Martin Luther King. All students from each grade level are involved. Each student is being asked to bring in a picture of Dr. King and to prepare a speech about the famed civil rights leader to be presented in a



Refreshments are shared at a Christmas party hosted by Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly.



Ms. Geraldine Shaheed, a publisher from Milwaukee, Wis., conducts a workshop on self esteem for the students of Project Spirit.



The Project Spirit Parents' Assoc. prepared an extravagant feast for the annual Thanksgiving dinner. The meal was donated, prepared, and served by various members of this newly-founded organization.

special commemorative program to be held in the future.

Carolyn Bledsoe, director of the St. Matthew's After School Program, comments on her five years of working with her talented group of students. "It takes a lot of patience and tolerance in working with children, especially after they have spent a full day in the D.C. Public School system. However, we have a wonderful time in sharing ideas, talent, and time together. We go through sad days and happy days together."

Ms. Bledsoe also enjoys the way that her students and their families have begun to look out for each other. She says that "We enjoy being together and we are growing as a family."

LIBRARY NEWS

Children's Library Needs Computer

The S.W. Branch Library is expanding their children's section. A Mac or IBM Compatible Computer is needed by the children. If you have one and are thinking of buying a new one - how about donating your old one to the S.W. library? Call the S.W. Library at 727-1381

Library's Black History Program

The Southwest Branch Library will present a program in celebration of Black History month on Wednesday, February 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 in the evening. The program will feature "Endangered Species", a Black Poetry Performance group, and the participation of the patrons and staff of the library. Miss Willetta Carter, a graduate of the Ellington School of the Arts, will contribute her singing to round out the program.

The library staff and patrons will participate by sharing their study of a person or time period from black history. Anyone is welcome to join in by coming to the library before the 23rd and drawing a name or time period. Then they can use the Black reference collection to learn enough about the person or time to talk for a minute or two about their importance in Black history.

We hope to have wide participation and attendance at the celebration. If you would like to participate, stop in one day soon to draw a name. If not, we hope you will plan to attend and enjoy this community event.



Carlet Harris poses with Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly. After-School Student Meets Mayor

One of "Project Spirit's" after school students, Carlet Harris, got another chance to meet Mayor Kelly when she was invited to a special event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. On January 16, Carlet was invited to the Seventh Annual Martin Luther King Leadership Awards Gala sponsored by the District of Columbia Public Library. In addition to the mayor, Carlet also met Dr. Hardy Franklin, who was being honored by this year's presenters for his 20 years of helping young people in his faithful service as the director of the D.C. Public Library.

Should Waterside Mall Have A Mini-Police Station?

by Margaret Feldman

EPA Safety official Ann Linnertz called a meeting on January 12th at EPA to discuss with community people, mall merchants and the police the idea of having a sub-station of the police in the mall to improve security in the mall and the neighborhood.

She reported that the mall management has agreed to give space and utilities without cost. EPA is willing to build out the space and provide furniture, and the First District station would send personnel.

The space would be available for community meetings and be easily accessible for residents and shoppers to report incidents.

A similar station at Hechinger Mall is a model.

Lt. Beverly Medlock of First District expressed strong support for the idea of the mini-station. After discussion it was agreed that the police would forward a proposal to their headquarters which will be written by Ms. Linnertz.

Additional meetings will be called to help the community, EPA workers, and mall merchants understand what is going on and help with the planning.

There is a great need for community



Ann Linnertz and Joyce Stewart of the EPA Security office, explained the Mini-Police station to ANC2-D

support and for volunteers to assist at the mini-station. The community greatly misses our community volunteer safety group, the Orange Hats, who are no longer walking in our neighborhood.

When asked about EPA's future plans, Ms. Linnertz said that EPA may be in the building for some time and even if it moves, another government agency would probably move in.

Support our Advertisers

Council Member Jack Evans Elected Chair Of WMATA Board

Second Ward council member Jack Evans was elected chair of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, which operates the Metro-rail and Metro-bus system. He has been on the board for one year, serving as vice-chair.

Mr. Evans was also reelected a vice-chair of the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG), a coordinating body for seven counties and 11 cities in the VA-MD-DC metropolitan area.

Privatizing Debate

A public forum, Saturday, March 12, 1994, 1:00-4:00 p.m. SW Branch Public Library, Wesley Place & K Street, SW; Panelists: Parents and Teachers, D.C. Public Schools and School Board president Franklin Smith; Union Representatives, Baltimore and District of Columbia Public Schools.

For more information, phone Rachel Hicks, 301-868-5571 or 682-2472, x 34.



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"The Price" At Arena Stage

It's old home week at Arena Stage this month: Robert Prosky and Stanley Anderson return to Arena to join newcomer James Sikking and regular cast member (and Southwest resident) Halo Wines in a 1968 Arthur Miller drama, *The Price*. It is a pleasure to once again see Stanley Anderson and Robert Prosky on this stage - two actors who developed such a loyal following during the many years they served as members of Arena's repertory company.

The Price is a story of the reunion of two brothers (Stanley Anderson and James Sikking) who have not seen each other for 16 years. They come together to determine the disposition of their long-dead father's furniture and memorabilia. Halo Wines (Anderson's wife) joins them in a mostly bitter and vengeful family discussion that reveals past hurts and slights, lies and distortions. Old secrets are revealed and truths uncovered. They must determine the price to be paid for the furniture - and the price that is always paid for the decisions and choices made in family relationships. The family is described as one based on financial arrangements rather than love - and that proves to be an accurate description.

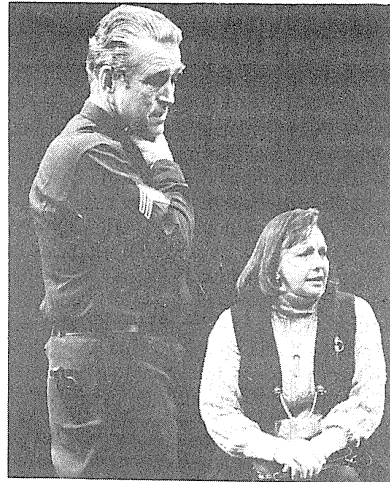
But the play is not only concerned with family skeletons. Robert Prosky plays an appraiser who wants to buy the whole furniture collection. He has to negotiate a price for this - but also becomes involved in the family issues that consume the other three characters.

All of the performances are first rate - as would be expected from a cast such as this. However, it's Robert Prosky to the rescue! He creates a character that is interesting, charming, funny and moving. When he is on stage, the stage is all his. When he leaves, the play slows down and begins to sink with the burden of the extremely complex story of this dysfunctional family. The mind tends to wander until Prosky comes back on stage.

This is both a memory and morality play. Most of the story action takes place before the play begins and is recalled in the dialogue. Arthur Miller defended *The Price* against negative reviews in 1968 by stating that the play is based on the underlying truth that certain things cannot be justified on a quid-pro-quo basis. Were the brothers' actions justified? The ending is ambiguous - each member of the audience provides an answer to that question.

Even though the play is somewhat dated, it is still an interesting evening of family drama. And well worth the time just to see these three Arena actors once again on stage - reminding us of how lucky we are to have this theater in our neighborhood.

The Price by Arthur Miller. On the Fichandler Stage (Arena) through February 27. Directed by Joe Dowling, with Stanley Anderson, Halo Wines, Robert Prosky and James Sikking. For tickets and information, 488-3300.



Stanley Anderson and Halo Wines in "The Price" at the Arena

Robert Gray, Barbara Watson, Delores Watson Join Weichert, Shannon & Luchs Realtors

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Laurie Sills was recognized as the top producer for the office in December and Francois Clay-Tor as top lister for the office. The total dollar volume of the office was more than doubled during December 1993.

Three sales associates have recently joined the Capitol Hill office of Weichert, Shannon & Luchs Realtors, managed by Mary Stark, at 220 Seventh St. SE. They are Robert Gray, Barbara Watson and Delores Watson.



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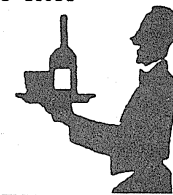
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SUNDAY: 8:00, 9:45, 12:15 and 5:15 p.m.

HOLYDAYS: Evening before: 5:30 p.m.,

7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 and

5:30 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 and 12:10 p.m.

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Cherry Blossom Festival

This year's 82nd National Cherry Blossom Festival will have a far more visible presence in Southwest. In an attempt to make certain that the Festival period covers the lovely trees' blossoming, the Festival will run for fourteen days, from March 29 through April 10.

The National Park Service will organize noonday concerts during the two-week period in one of the parks along Water Street, and Washington Waterfront Association will again combine with A-Salon, Inc. to mount an arts and crafts festival along the Waterfront promenade on Sunday, April 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the Festival's closing.

Friendship Baptist Church Activities

Friendship Church thanks all of you who attended their "Watch Meeting Night Services." We brought the New Year in with everyone on his/her knees praying. Everyone was able to thank God for a brand new year along with their own personal thoughts. Although not everyone was with us that night, we hope that all of you were able to say prayers in your own way.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended our Revival Services. It was two weeks of soul-steering preaching, singing and soul saving.

Please continue to pray for us during our mourning period and we also ask for your prayers for our First Lady, the deceased reverend's wife, Ms. Emma Montgomery.

The February meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, SWNA, will be on the last Monday of the month, February 28th at 6:30 pm. at the library. The nominating committee will report on the names, addresses and offices. Nomination will also be accepted from the floor. Afterwards, there will be a general meeting.

BLACK HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Come one, come all - join family and friends in a celebration of Black heritage at Christ United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 13, 1994 at 11:00 a.m., as it presents "Make a Joyful Noise." Celebrate the history of the Black church in America, with stories, music, and dance, featuring the Christ United Methodist Church choir and invited soloists along with special guest artists. The Reverend Esther Holimon, Pastor, will be presiding along with members of the community, including Elizabeth Bouey-Yates and Bernardine Brown. A reception follows the program. Don't miss this very special, dynamic event!

Christ United Methodist Church is located at 4th and I Street, S.W., with parking available in the parking lot adjacent to the church (enter from the Waterside Shopping Mall Parking lot entrance). For further details please call 202-554-9117.

D.C. Called Fiscally Strong

In a study of the 56 largest cities, the U.S. Government Accounting Office ranked the District of Columbia among the 14 cities with the strongest fiscal capacity - "reflecting the degree to which a jurisdiction can finance an average level of expenditures on services with an average tax burden [sales, property and income taxes]."

San Francisco, San Diego and several other California cities were among the top-ranked along with Washington D.C., as were Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN, and Charlotte, N.C.

Cities with very poor ratings included Chicago, Detroit, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia and Newark, N. J.

Top ranked counties included Montgomery County, MD, Fairfax County, VA, and Baltimore County, MD.

To order a free copy of the GAO report call (202) 512-6000. Additional copies are \$2 each.



River Park Nursery School

1301 Delaware Ave. SW 202-484-3397

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, February 27, 1994 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

(Snow date - March 6)

Refreshments!



River Park Nursery School is the oldest cooperative nursery school in Washington, DC. It offers a traditional developmental program, licensed by the District of Columbia, for 3 and 4 year olds, five days a week from 9-12:30, in an exceptionally fine facility. The school actively seeks an enrollment reflecting the diversity of our community. A limited scholarship program is available.

P o v e r t y Near The Capitol

Gottlieb Simon,
President, SW Community House

Where is the greatest concentration of poverty in the District? Across the Anacostia in Ward 8? No! It's right here.

This surprising conclusion is one of a number of important facts reported in an important but unheralded study issued late last year.

The study entitled "Poverty in the District of Columbia: Facts and Figures" was prepared by George Grier with the assistance of Suzanne Grier. The Griers, highly respected researchers at the Greater Washington Research Center Prepared the report for the United Planning Organization (UPO).

There are 192 census tracts in the District. According to the study, half of all poor people in the District live in just 44 of these census tracts. In four of these census tracts, poor people are the majority.

Three of these four are in Ward 2; the fourth is in Ward 6 in the area south of the freeway between South Capitol and 11th Streets SE.

Two of the three tracts in Ward 2 are located in Southwest. They are the target area of the Southwest Community House, which is a "delegate" agency of UPO. It seems that SWCH has a big job to do.

Although the actual number of poor persons is greater in other areas, no place has a higher concentration of poverty than does Southwest. Here you will find housing projects across the street from luxury high-rises.

According to the Griers, the situation contains both problem and opportunity. The problem is that the "concentration of poverty greatly intensifies its negative effects on neighborhoods. . . the problems that often accompany it . . . frequently become overwhelming when massed together . . . so that the cycle is more than likely to be repeated." The opportunity presented by this concentration is that it allows us "to target limited program resources to the places where poverty is greatest and the largest numbers of people in need can be served."

Wallace Darius, Robert Zigler Appointed to ANC Committee

New members of the ANC Education and Recreation committee are Southwest residents Wallace Darius, former Ward 2 director of the Dept. of Recreation, and Robert Zigler, chair of the local chapter of NARFE.

Activities will include looking into the proposed sale of Syphax and Randall buildings, use of recreation centers, tennis court upkeep, etc.

Two more members are needed on the committee. Anyone interested should call D. W. Hargrave, chair, at 554-8284.

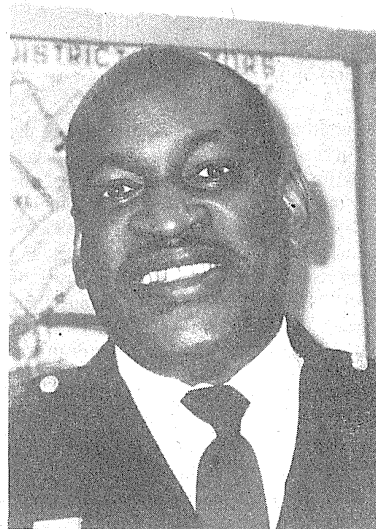
Inspector Robert Gales

The new chief of the First District is
Inspector Robert L. Gales.

Inspector Gales is a 46 year old native of Washington, D.C. He grew up in the Riggs Park neighborhood of Northeast Washington. He graduated from Coolege High School and served in the United States Army during the Viet Nam War.

He joined the Police Department in 1969, serving as an officer in the Fifth District which covers most of Northeast. Gales rose through the ranks, serving as a detective in the Narcotics Squad, a sergeant in the Third District Community Services Unit, a lieutenant in the Seventh District and as a captain in the Second District.

His range of experience in different areas of policing and communities in this city served to prepare him to command the First District.



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Wed. Feb 16 630 pm Ash Wednesday
supper at Garden Memorial Presby-
terian Church on Minnesota Ave. SE
Next 5 Thursdays at Westminster, 400 I St
SW - 6:30 - 8:30 pm soup supper and
study (Feb. 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24)

SUNDAY SERVICES DURING LENT

(including special music from the
*African-American tradition during
Black History Month*)

Sun Feb, 20 11 am Lent I - "The Path to
the Round Table and Beyond"

Sun Feb 27 11 am Lent II - Rev. Sterling
Morse, National Capital Presbytery
Associate.

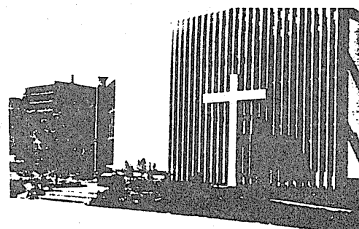
Sun Mar 6 11 am - Lent III "Black
Church National Day of Prayer for the
Healing of AIDS"

Sun Mar 13 11 am - Lent IV "Who Gets
to Speak?"

Sun Mar 20 11 am - Lent V "Staying
Faithful: The Church's Constant
Challenge"

EASTER WEEK

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\$10. Order from
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PALM SUNDAY Mar 27
10:45am Blessing of the Palms at the park
next door - 11 am Palm Sunday service

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Thurs. Mar. 31 7:30 pm - Tennebrae
candlelight service

GOOD FRIDAY Fri. Apr 1
noon (at St. Matthews Lutheran Church
222 M St SW), community Good Friday
service

**EASTER EVE WATCH
SERVICE** Sat. Apr. 2 sundown (6
pm) Candlelight vigil

EASTER SUNDAY Apr 3 - 11
am - Easter service - CHRIST HAS
RISEN! Ring out the bells!

Sun Apr 10 - 11 am **EASTER
AFTERGLOW** service

New "Orange Hats?"

Neighborhood Outreach Committee
Established by CPIV Condominium

A new group to establish contact among the people in the private and public housing developments in the Southwest was created at the January meeting of Capital Park IV condominium. Capital Park IV is a group of townhouses between Delaware Avenue and Third Street, and the Expressway and I Street. The board of directors of Capital Park IV (CPIV) named their new group the Neighborhood Committee and appointed Dr. Georgeann Wilcoxson as chairperson.

CPIV had a hard fought board election in December. The long discussion at the condo's annual meeting proved that the operations of the condo were a mystery to many residents. Even some of the longterm residents were in a quandary to decide which candidate should get their votes.

To help inform people and increase Southwest community ties, the CPIV committee chair Georgeann Wilcoxson has met with the S.W. Affairs Committee group of River Park, and individuals from Greenleaf Gardens and other developments.

She had an enthusiastic reception at the January meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, whose president John Brown introduced Wilcoxson and asked her to tell some of the committee's ideas to the Assembly. A number of the Assembly members offered Wil-

coxson sources of information on the community. They encouraged her to develop a picture of the current actions in various community groups. They said such data could improve neighborhood ties in the Southwest.

At the Assembly, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, C.W. Hargrave told Wilcoxson that he anticipated that her new committee would be in touch with the Commission, which would welcome the new group.

Later, Margaret Feldman, president of the Southwest Community Council, took Wilcoxson on a tour of Southwest. Feldman pointed out the homes of some neighborhood organizations and of some of the leaders of those organizations.

One was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Williams who for years led the Orange Hats, a neighborhood watch group. The Assembly held a meeting in August which honored Mr. and Mrs. Williams. When they moved away from the Southwest that month the Orange Hats dissolved. The Assembly has been searching since then for new Orange Hat leadership.

"I was told how much the Orange Hats meant to the neighborhood," Wilcoxson told the *Southwester*. She said "the Orange Hat walkers knew most of the youngsters in the area. One of the walkers carried candy for the younger children." This helped boost the neighborhood watch's popularity and effectiveness.

Margaret Feldman added that one Southwest youngster who, when he moved to Pennsylvania, started an Orange Hat organization there. There were residents from Capitol Park among the walkers in the Orange Hats. The new CPIV committee might be a vehicle for reviving the this group.

She told the *Southwester* that her committee will greet CPIV newcomers, explain condo operations to them, help them get acquainted with the neighborhood and, as the committee develops, offer them participation in whatever actions and contacts the committee makes with people in other housing developments.

Some of the committee members have suggested that joint action among residents of the various Southwest housing developments might bring more attention to this neighborhood from local and federal government authorities.

Dr. Wilcoxson agrees with this. She hopes that the CPIV committee can join with other neighborhood groups to explore with HUD the possibility of home ownership for some of the people living in subsidized housing in the Southwest. Residents of James Creek have been pursuing self-management of their development for over a year and their experience might benefit the committee, she said.

The CPIV Neighborhood Committee had six members two days after it was established by the board, but more are needed as the work develops. Volunteers for the committee are asked to call Georgeann Wilcoxson at 863-2239. Members from other groups interested in cooperating with CPIV Committee are encouraged to call as well.

Poetry Class Meets

Mary Quattlebaum so enjoyed her Smithsonian class on visionary poetry that she persuaded Joe Harrison to continue teaching in a more comfortable environment: an apartment in Southwest.

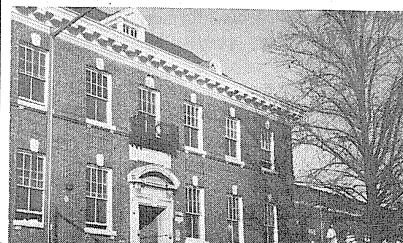
The group which resulted, a combination of students from the original class and their friends, has been meeting one evening a week for several years. Last year, class members focused on contemporary poets, such as Elizabeth Bishop, James Merrill, and John Ashbery. Participants vary in age and professional background, but they all notice some welcome changes from their undergraduate days. Beer, wine, and cheese are available, and classes end when the topic is exhausted.

Harrison said, "Teaching adults is much more civilized. They are there because they want to be." A published poet, he has degrees from Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities and was on a fast track as a literary scholar when he resigned a prestigious fellowship because he was dissatisfied with how literature is studied and wanted to devote energy to his own poetry. He said, "I didn't think I'd become the poet I wanted to be unless I took some risks."

For the students, the class can be a respite from their professional lives. Paul Lewis, who hosts the group, find the class an antidote to his daily routine as a government lawyer. "Both poets and lawyers work with words. The difference is that for a poet each word is a valuable tool, but lawyers keep adding on words to make a point." Another participant said, "It's a relief to get away from my own writing and focus so completely on what someone else is trying to say."

Although the class is informal, Harrison is rigorous in his approach and brings his considerable scholarship to bear on each poem. Quattlebaum said, "He's thought-provoking, insightful, stimulating, and fun." Other students praise his ability to frame the issues of each poem and relate it to literary traditions; in fact, his ability to link the past and present spawned another class. Students asked for an opportunity to study Renaissance literature because Harrison had piqued their interest about the period by his efforts to place poetry in a historical context. That class meets every other Saturday in Northwest Washington.

The Southwest class will resume again in mid-February. Any potential student may attend one class free and can begin the series at any point. Call Paul Lewis at 488-3293 for more information. -- Kate Mulligan



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